

HOUSE BILL 1200

M2

EMERGENCY BILL
ENROLLED BILL

(7lr2194)

— *Environment and Transportation/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs* —

Introduced by **Delegate Mautz**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Aquaculture – Leases – Submerged Aquatic Vegetation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with
4 interested stakeholders, to ~~study~~ *review* certain conflicts that arise related to
5 aquaculture and submerged aquatic vegetation, develop certain solutions to these
6 conflicts, and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
7 General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Department of Natural
8 Resources, notwithstanding certain provisions of law, to adopt regulations that
9 establish standards and a process under which the Department may assess and
10 evaluate certain aquaculture leases in order to make certain determinations; making
11 this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of this Act; and
12 generally relating to aquaculture leases and submerged aquatic vegetation.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with interested stakeholders,
3 shall:

4 (1) ~~study~~ review the conflicts that arise when implementing its policies of
5 protecting submerged aquatic vegetation and promoting aquaculture in the State;

6 (2) develop solutions to these conflicts that take into account the benefits
7 provided by both submerged aquatic vegetation and aquaculture; and

8 (3) report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
9 legislation, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
10 Article, the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2017.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding the
12 provisions of Title 4 of the Natural Resources Article, the Department of Natural Resources
13 may adopt regulations that establish standards and a process under which the Department
14 may assess and evaluate an aquaculture lease on which submerged aquatic vegetation has
15 encroached to determine if aquaculture activity on the lease shall be restricted or prohibited
16 due to the circumstances of the encroachment.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
18 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
19 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
20 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
21 enacted. It shall remain effective through May 31, 2018, and, at the end of May 31, 2018,
22 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
23 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.